



RECEIVED  
JUL 9 2002  
PATIENT  
TECH CENTER 1600  
ence of all  
ited

Group Art Unit 1651

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on

June 24, 2002

(Date)                       
Daniel E. Altman  
 Daniel E. Altman, Reg. No. 34,115

United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 2327  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace Paragraph [0013] as follows:

**[0013]** For years it has been known that Chlamydia can induce cardiovascular disease in experimental animals. This Chlamydia-mediated heart disease in mice can be induced by antigenic mimicry of a heart muscle-specific protein, thus providing a molecular link between Chlamydia infections and heart disease. Since many infectious agents have been implicated in heart disease, it is not surprising that organisms other than Chlamydia can also supply mimicking epitopes. Indeed, Machmaier, K. et al., in a study published in Nature Medicine in August 2000, screened public databases for proteins sharing the pathogenic mouse M7A $\alpha$  peptide MA'ST